

## *The Meaning of Life*

*"...Being alive is a tremendous opportunity – it's what you do with it that matters. Work never hurt anyone; it is the lack of it that destroys people. I've made my decisions and been as terrified as the next person, but you have got to keep going. I don't know if there is an almighty, but one thing is for certain, you cannot expect it to do all your work – we must take matters into our hands and use good common sense as a guide. My mother worked for women's rights and for birth control. She believed that bearing children was a personal choice. I do too. There are too many of us in the world already so why should people be forced to have children they don't want. That is just not logical. Love? I have been lucky – I've been loved and been in love. There's a big difference between the two. People who want fame have to be loners. Marriage and a career, in my mind, do not go together easily. Old age? Why worry about something you cannot control. Make the best of it and hope your body does not let you down. I do not have Parkinson's disease. I inherited my shaking head from my grandfather. Whiskey stops the shaking but if I am not careful, it stops the rest of me, too; and although my head shakes, I assure you it's not going to fall off! I have no fear of death. Must be wonderful though – like a long sleep. Let's face it, it's how you live in this life that really counts. There has been a motto used in my family for as long as I remember. My father used it, my mother used it and I use it: listen to the song of life."*

*Katherine Hepburn*